

**AMENDMENT TO ITEM NO. 60**

The Department of Children and Family Services has a proposal to enhance their efforts to investigate Hotline referrals involving children in Group Homes and State Licensed Foster Homes by hiring seven additional staff. Investigating allegations of abuse and/or neglect is a critical priority for both the Department and this Board. However, important concerns have emerged regarding how this investigative unit will coordinate with the existing program and fiscal monitoring of agencies and homes by the Department, and whether in the absence of clearly stated objectives, standards and criteria for accountability, this proposal can be successful.

Unfortunately, these questions and concerns have gone unanswered; including questions regarding expected performance standards, criteria for terminating contracts, and the evaluation of outcomes of Foster Care Agencies and Group Homes. The issue is not about adding positions but about understanding what these additional positions will actually accomplish in terms of ensuring the safety of our foster children and the

**MOTION**

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

accountability of our contract providers.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** to Request that the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services provide a written report by June 4, 2013 addressing the specific questions below:

1. If we have a number of group homes with outstanding corrective actions or funds they owe to the County, how does DCFS determine when to terminate their contract?
2. How many violations take place per agency before referrals are terminated?
3. What is the anticipated impact of these new positions, ranging from today to one year from now?
4. Would it be a better investment to recruit additional Foster Family Agencies (FFA's) that are in good standing, or mandate that agencies in good standing mentor troubled agencies?
5. How many FFAs and Group Homes are monitored by DCFS?
6. How many FFAs and Group Homes require a secondary inspection?
7. How many investigations were conducted by the Out-of-Home Care Investigation Section (OHCIS) unit in the last fiscal year (FY 2012-13)?
8. Were there investigations that should have been conducted but were not completed?
  - a. If so, how many?
  - b. How will the backlog of these investigations be addressed?

9. There are five components—allegations, incidents, investigative findings, corrective action plans, and patterns of concern. What is the criterion for triaging these components?
  - a. What will be addressed first?
  - b. How will it be addressed?
  - c. Is there a comprehensive list of Foster Homes and Groups Homes to be investigated? Provide list.
10. What is the time period between the Emergency Response investigation and the secondary investigation?
11. Who is currently conducting secondary investigations?
12. Once Foster Parents and/or Group Homes are found to be in violation of state regulations and/or their contract is in violation, how long does it take for corrective action to be taken?
  - a. What is meant by “expeditious action”?
13. What is the current practice for corrective actions of group homes and foster care agencies in violation?
14. How many current positions are housed in the Out-of-Home Care Investigation Section (OHCIS) of DCFS?
15. How was the number of new positions determined?
  - a. Why seven?
  - b. How will the workload be distributed among the seven staff?
  - c. Will there be a performance assessment of this unit to determine impact on workload by additional staff?

- i. If so, when?
  - ii. If not, why?
- 16. It has been stated that recruitment for these positions is to be conducted from within the Department; how will the vacated positions be back-filled?
  - a. What is the timeline for filling these positions?
  - b. How will this impact the current workload of the Out-of-Home Care Investigation Section (OHCIS) unit?
- 17. The Board requested a plan with specifics: 1) outline how DCFS will perform annual programmatic audits; (2) budget and identify the number of fiscal audits to be conducted annually; 3) explain why DCFS and the Auditor-Controller have not collaborated to produce a comprehensive audit report during years when fiscal/programmatic audits overlap; 4) clarify the status of the existing system and the efforts utilized to track and collect payments; 5) recommendation for a collection policy and outline. What is the status of that plan?
- 18. In the scope of work, who will conduct program audits and who will conduct fiscal audits? Explain how these audits will overlap within the new staff assignments.

MR/sf